

.....THE COLD SUMMER OF 1816.....

Persons are in the habit of speaking of the cold summer of 1816 as the coldest ever known throughout America and Europe. Having in our possession some facts relative to this subject we propose to give them in order to revive the recollections of such among us as remember the year without a summer; also to furnish correct information for such as feel any interest in matters of this kind. We shall, therefore, give a summary of each of the months of the year 1816, extracted in part from "Pierce on the Weather."

January was mild—so much as to render fires almost needless in sitting rooms. December, the month immediately preceding this, was very cold.

February was not very cold, with the exception of a few days it was mild like its predecessor.

March was cold and boisterous, the first half of it—the remainder was mild. A great freshet of the Ohio and Kentucky rivers that caused great loss of property.

April began warm and grew colder as the month advanced, and ended with snow and ice, with a temperature more like winter than spring.

May, like the one just ended, was more remarkable for frowns than smiles. Buds and fruits were frozen—ice formed half an inch in thickness—corn killed and the field again and again replanted until deemed too late.

June the coldest ever known in this latitude. Frost and ice and snow were common. Almost every green shrub was killed. Fruit nearly all destroyed. Snow fell to the depth of ten inches in Vermont. Several inches in Maine, and it fell to the depth of three inches in the interior of this state; it fell also in Massachusetts.

July was accompanied by frost and ice. On the morning after the 4th ice formed to the thickness of common window glass throughout New England, New York and some parts of Pennsylvania Indian corn nearly all killed; some favorably situated fields escaped. This was true of some of the hill farms in Massachusetts.

August was more cheerless if possible than the summer months already passed. Ice was formed half an inch in thickness. Indian corn was so frozen that the greater part of it was cut down and dried for fodder. Almost every green thing was destroyed, both in this country and in Europe. Papers received from England said: "It will ever be remembered by the present generation that the year 1816 was a year in

which there was no summer." Very little corn in the New England and middle states ripened. Farmers supplied themselves from the corn produced in 1815 for seed in the spring of 1817. It sold for from \$4 to \$5 a bushel.

September furnished about two weeks of the mildest of the season. Soon after the middle it became very cold and frosty—ice forming a quarter of an inch in thickness.

October produced more than its usual share of cool weather; frost and ice common.

November was cold and blustering. Snow fell so as to make sleighing.

December was mild and comfortable. We have thus given a brief summary of the "Cold Summer of 1816," as it was called in order to distinguish it from the cold seasons. The winter was mild. Frost and ice were common in every month of the year. Very little vegetation matured in the eastern and middle states. The sun's rays seemed to be destitute of heat throughout the summer; and all nature was clad in a sable hue and man exhibited no little anxiety concerning the future of his life.—Rochester American, 1846.

HOW THE WORLD SAYS GOOD-BY

In different countries, just as the manner of greeting is varied, so is the habit of saying good-by. The Turk will solemnly cross his hands upon his breast and make a profound obeisance when he bids farewell. The genial Japanese will take his shippers off as you depart, and say with a smile: "You are going to leave my despicable house in your honorable journeyings. I regard thee."

In the Philippines the parting benediction is bestowed in rubbing a friend's face with one's hands. The German's "Lebe wohl" is not particularly sympathetic in its sound, but it is less embarrassing to those it speeds than the Hindu's performance, who, when you go from him, falls in the dust at your feet. The Fiji Islanders cross two red feathers. The natives of New Guinea exchange chocolate. The Burmese bend low and say, "Hib, hib!" The "Auf wiedersehen" of the Austrians is the most feeling expression of farewell.

The Cuban would consider his good-by anything but a cordial one unless he was given a good cigar. The South Sea Islanders rattle each other's whale teeth necklaces. In the islands in the Straits of the Sound the natives at your going will stoop down and clasp your foot. The Russian form of parting salutation is brief, consisting of the single word "Braschal," said to sound like a sneeze. The Othaheie Islander will twist the end of his departing guest's robe, and then solemnly shake his own hands three times.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

DECORATION DAY

The pension rolls have lately reported a marked decrease in the number of surviving union veterans of the civil war, yet yesterday's celebration of decoration day showed no decrease in the public interest in the event, in the crowds that turned out to see and cheer the parades, and in the patriotic spirit that prevailed. That spirit, however, was free from all the old sectional bitterness that once prevailed. A characteristic, striking and encouraging feature of yesterday's celebrations was the kindly words spoken of the confederate veterans whenever they were referred to. The president emphasized this in his speech at Indianapolis when speaking of General Lawton, whose monument was unveiled there, said of his services in the Spanish war:

"When he then served it was in an army whose generals included not only many of his old comrades in arms, but some of his old opponents also, as General Wheeler and General Fitzhugh Lee. Under him, both among the commissioned officers and in the ranks, were many men whose fathers had worn the blue serving side by side with others whose fathers had worn the gray; but all Americans now, and nothing but

Americans, all united in their fealty and devotion to their common flag and their common country, and each knowing only the generous rivalry with his fellows as to who could best serve the cause for which each was ready to lay down life itself."

And the same spirit manifested itself at the other celebrations—a spirit that tells of the true patriotism of the whole country.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

The Public Ownership of Railways

Beginning with the first issue of July THE PUBLIC will publish A Series of Articles on the Public Ownership of Railways in Europe, by Erik Oberg.

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to cure indigestion is largely due to the old theory that when the stomach becomes inactive it needs something to mechanically digest its contents, and cathartics, purgatives, etc., are used, which give only temporary relief, because they digest by irritating the lining of the stomach.

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